

Voting Equipment Task Force

Minutes of August 20, 2015

The members of the Voting Equipment Task Force met on August 20, 2015, at 2:00 pm at the Center for Southeast Asians.

Voting Equipment Task Force Members present:

Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea, Chairperson

Melissa Long, RI Department of State

Rob Rock, RI Department of State

Bob Rapoza, Board of Elections

Ken McGill, City of Pawtucket

Renay Omisore, City of Providence

Louise Phaneuf, Town of Burrillville

Jane Koster, League of Women Voters

Stacey Phimmatheth, Center for Southeast Asians (designee)

Steven Sepe, City of Cranston

Bob Cooper, Governor's Commission on Disabilities

Drew Milligan, Providence Millennial Taskforce

Timothy Howe, Rhode Island Military Organization

Dale Holberton, Town of South Kingstown

John Marion, Common Cause Rhode Island

Pilar McCloud, NAACP-Providence

Voting Equipment Task Force Members absent:

Joseph McNamara, RI Democratic Party

Kathleen Connell, AARP Rhode Island

Brandon Bell, RI Republican Party

Travis Escobar, Providence Millennial Taskforce

Jose Batista, RI Latino Civic Fund

James Spooner, Moderate Party of RI

Janet Ruggiero, Town of North Providence

Rick O'Neill, City of Newport

Department of State staff present:

Steve Gerencser, Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff

Guests:

Paul Caranci, Democracy Live, Inc.

Kate Bowden, RI Disability Law Center

Kathy Placencia, Providence Board of Canvassers

Ysalia Rodriguez, RI Department of State

Pat Breslin, RI Senate President's Office

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Secretary Gorbea calls the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Eight members are absent.

II. Approval of minutes

Discussion on the meeting minutes from August 13th.

Timothy Howe makes the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 13th meeting and Ken McGill seconds. All Ayes

III. Discussion of minimum requirements for a new voting system

Department of State staff provides an overview of the Task Force's recommendations for the minimum requirements for a new voting system.

Recommendations:

- Voter confidence**

- o Ballot display screen and electronic poll books are two items that lead to voter confidence**

- Independence/privacy while voting**

- o Accessible voting equipment that meets HAVA and EAC standards as well as equipment that is able to read ballots entered in all four orientations**

- Easy to use system**

- o A faster check-in process, use of electronic poll books, ability to mark ballots using blue/black ink, and up-to-date technology that makes marking a ballot easy**

- Properly functioning machines**

- o Equipment must be newly manufactured, durable, properly tested and only used in Rhode Island**

- **Emergency preparedness**
 - o **Machines should have an internal battery backup and should be able to read all ballot styles**
- **Security**
 - o **Machines should be able to read mail ballots voted in blue/black ink and voted ballots should be secured in a locked compartment**
- **Voting quickly**
 - o **Quick check-in process at the polling locations, easy to read ballots and ballot on demand printing**
- **Education and outreach**
 - o **Creating voting materials, making sample ballots available, hosting voter demonstrations/outreach events**
- **Ability to audit and verify ballots/results**
 - o **Verifying by hand or by re-feeding ballots and notifying voters who over vote their ballot**
- **Electronic poll books**
 - o **Quicker check-in process, ability for poll workers to find names faster, up to date voter rolls, removes the necessity to scan election history**

The Task Force discusses other requirements to consider for the request for proposal (RFP):

- **EAC requirement standards**
- **Connecting an arrow v. filling in an oval**
- **Ownership of data**
- **Making accessible voting equipment and electronic poll books**

accessible to cities/towns for Financial Town Meetings

Task Force ends discussion.

IV. Public Comment

Democracy Live, Inc. discusses EAC certification. Providence Board of Canvassers asks the difference between the RFI and RFP. Department of State indicates that an RFI is a request for information. RI Disability Law Center notes the difference between the arrow and oval.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 3:16 pm.

This is the last meeting of the Voting Equipment Task Force.

Handouts:

The following documents were distributed at the Task Force meeting:

- Minutes from August 13, 2015 meeting**
- PowerPoint presentation on voting equipment recommendations**